



THE POWER OF



Vol. 3, Issue 1
June 2006



A Newsletter For Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 10 Employees



Secretary Nighbert helps break ground for Estill plant during visit to District 10

During a whirlwind visit to three District 10 counties on Monday, May 8, KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert helped break ground on a biodiesel plant in Estill County and presented ceremonial checks to three counties and one city.

In Irvine, Secretary Nighbert presented \$90,000 to the City of Irvine and \$350,000 to the Estill County Fiscal Court. Among those accompanying him were Ginger Wills, executive director of the Office of Rural and Secondary Roads, who is a former Estill Countian and who worked in the office of Estill Judge-Executive Wallace Taylor. This funding was authorized by the 2006 General Assembly through House Bill 267, which authorized \$150 million statewide for local governments to use for road and bridge repair or bridge replacement. Taylor presented checks to Judge Taylor, Irvine Mayor Tom Williams, and other city and county officials.

After leaving Irvine, Secretary Nighbert traveled to Wolfe County, where he presented a \$144,000 check to County Judge-Executive Raymond Hurst and members of the Wolfe County Fiscal Court.

He concluded his visit to District 10 by traveling to Morgan County, where he presented a \$500,000 check to County Judge-Executive Tim Conley and members of the Morgan County Fiscal Court.





Above, check presentation to the City of Irvine: State Senator Tom Jensen, Irvine Mayor Tom Williams, State Representative Ted Edmonds and KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert.



Right, check presentation to the Estill County Fiscal Court: Magistrate Greg Hall, Executive Director Ginger Wills, County Judge-Executive Wallace Taylor, Magistrate Darrell Johnson, State Representative Ted Edmonds, Magistrate Kevin Williams, State Senator Tom Jensen and KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert.

District 10 CDE Linda Wagner-Justice and Gary Reece from the Department of Intergovernmental Programs. At right is Greg Stotemyer from WTVQ-TV, Channel 36 in Lexington.



KYTC employee Jackie Bishop and Darrell Horn from the Estill County Road Department talked during the groundbreaking and check presentation.



Morgan County Magistrate Denzil Potter, County Judge-Executive Tim Conley and KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert.



Wolfe County magistrates Garrett Denniston and C. B. Gilbert, County Judge-Executive Raymond Hurst, KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert and State Representative Adrian Arnold.



Wolfe County School Superintendent Steve Butcher chatted with Ginger Wills, Beth Mills and Mary Sharfe prior to the check presentation in Campton.



Morgan County Judge Tim Conley introduced members of his staff to KYTC central office representatives.

Busy month in Perry County!

Pedestrian bridge collapse, mudslide keep crews on their toes

KYTC personnel responding to two emergency situations in Perry County within the span of three weeks found themselves quite busy, working long hours, and dealing with quite a few traffic headaches.

On Friday, March 31, a portion of the pedestrian bridge crossing KY 15 near Hazard High School collapsed. This bridge has been repeatedly struck by overheight loads, and it's believed that the bridge was impacted by yet another overheight load just prior to the collapse of the walkway.

The collapse resulted in the closure of KY 15 until such time that the debris could be removed. The bridge was inspected and found to pose no risk to traffic passing beneath it.

KYTC Central Office and District 10 personnel are currently in the process of determining what to do with the portion of the structure that remains. Tentative plans are to demolish the structure sometime in June.



Commissioner Williams, left, with Jason Blackburn (back to camera), Tony Bowling, Brandon Akers and Linda Wagner-Justice at the site of the mudslide.

About three weeks later, a mudslide forced the closure of KY 699 near Leatherwood. A number of state agencies responded, and the road remained closed until Tuesday, May 2.

"I appreciate all the work everyone has done on this slide. Everyone involved has set aside their normal workload to address this major undertaking and I've been very proud of the way you have responded," said District 10 CDE Linda Wagner-Justice.

Highway Commissioner Marc D. Williams toured the scene on Wednesday, April 26.



Jason Blackburn, Linda Wagner-Justice, Brandon Akers and Commissioner Marc Williams went up on the mountainside to inspect the source of the water that caused the slide.



District 10 CDE honored by Big Sandy CTC

Linda Wagner-Justice, District 10's precedent-setting chief district engineer, has been named the 2006 Outstanding Alumna by the Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg.

Wagner-Justice was honored and was the guest speaker during the college's commencement on May 12 at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg.

"Linda is one of our very brightest pre-engineering graduates, an extremely pleasant soft-spoken lady with lots of personality," said John D. Sammons, BSCTC professor who nominated her for the award. "She has truly excelled professionally in an area almost totally dominated by men. I consider her a true inspiration to those females wanting to enter the world of civil engineering and one of the finest human beings you will ever encounter."

"We congratulate Linda. She deserves this honor," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "Linda is an exemplary leader. Her uplifting spirit and dedication to excellence embodies the character of so many of our valued employees."

During her address, Wagner-Justice admonished the graduates to take full advantage of their education and abilities.

"In all that you do, do your best," she said. "This will be the characteristic that will define you to others and will set the course for your accomplishments in life and your profession. Both excellence and success are attainable through your day-to-day dedication. And most importantly, take the life and talents that God has given you, and make a difference."

"Education is a life-long journey and should not stop at commencement. You will continue to learn from your life's experiences and the people you meet along the way. They have lessons to teach you if you will only take time to listen. I learn every day from the people I work with, my family and friends. Some of life's best lessons, I learn from my daughter."

Wagner-Justice holds a place in Kentucky history. In 1998, she became the first female chief district engineer ever in the Commonwealth when



Professor John D. Sammons from Big Sandy Community and Technical College presented Linda Wagner-Justice with the Outstanding Alumna Award in Prestonsburg on May 12.

she was appointed to that position in the District 12 office in Pikeville.

She attended the former Prestonsburg Community College from 1979-80 and then returned from 1982-84 before transferring to the University of Kentucky.

She has held several positions within KYTC and has been chief district engineer in District 10 since April 2005.

Wagner-Justice is a native of Holden, W. Va., and is a graduate of Johnson Central High School in Paintsville. She is a registered professional engineer in Kentucky. She currently lives in Betsy Layne with her husband, Charles, and their daughter, Elon.

The Outstanding Alumni award is bestowed following a nomination process which seeks input from students, staff, faculty and the community. Each year the honor is bestowed upon a former student who has exhibited career success and has had a positive effect on the community.

D-10 motorcycle show benefits March of Dimes

On Saturday, April 15, District 10 sponsored a motorcycle show as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes.

Residents of the area entered 15 bikes and the District 10 sponsors considered the inaugural event a success despite a number of other events taking place in the region that day, and the fact that it was Easter weekend.

District 10 employee Bonnie Dunahoo, who organized the event, said that the show raised more than \$700 for the March of Dimes. Plans are to hold another motorcycle show next year in the hopes of getting even more participation and raising more money for charity.

"By joining in, we show that the District 10 Department of Highways and its employees care about our community," said Linda Wagner-Justice, chief district engineer. "We believe our efforts will help save babies from premature birth and birth defects. More than ever, organizations like ours must demonstrate their willingness to serve their communities, and we believe the March of Dimes is a great choice for our charitable efforts."



Above, participants and spectators checked out the motorcycles. Below, District 10 employee Stephanie Strong staffed the concession stand.



D-10 prepares for influx of bicycles

Five counties in District 10 — Estill, Lee, Meniffee, Powell and Wolfe — will be invaded by bicyclists the weekend of June 16-18 as the first Pedals and Blooms Festival takes place in Beattyville and Stanton.

Part of the event includes several bicycle races and rallies through the Red River Gorge and surrounding areas. The festival is being sponsored and promoted by the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association and Congressman Hal Rogers' office. The event is timed to coincide with the conclusion of Powell County native and Kentucky Unbridled Spirit award winner Joe Bowen's cross-country bicycle ride.

To prepare for the event, District 10 recently installed "Share The Road" signs along the route. Mike Bush and Glenn Bush from the D-10 sign crew are seen at left erecting the first sign on KY 715 at Pine Ridge in Wolfe County.

KYTC garners support for seat belt usage, primary legislation at rallies

Following on the heels of a successful statewide rally in the Capitol Rotunda on Feb. 7 in support of legislation enacting a primary seat belt law in Kentucky, each of the 12 highway districts held their own rally to garner support for the legislation and to encourage the use of seat belts.

District 10's rally was held Friday, Feb. 24 at the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center in Hazard. Law enforcement officials, first responders, transportation professionals and students from Hazard High School attended to hear a variety of speakers discuss seat belt usage and the need for a primary seat belt law in Kentucky.

Boyd Sigler, state transportation safety director and a member of the Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety, discussed KYTC's efforts to increase highway safety and gave an overview of the primary seat belt legislation.

Sharon Whitaker, director of radiology at Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital in Irvine, gave her firsthand accounts of dealing with automobile accident victims in the Estill County hospital's emergency room. She related some heartbreaking stories of deaths and injuries she had experienced.

State Senator Daniel Mongiardo, a doctor on staff at Appalachian Regional Hospital in Hazard, brought his unique perspective to share with those in attendance. Mongiardo supports the passage of a primary seat belt law in the Kentucky General Assembly and he gave his reasons for supporting the measure. He also related some of his experiences in the Hazard ARH emergency room.

Mongiardo gave the Hazard High students something to think about during his remarks. He urged them to look in the mirror and then to imagine their faces covered in scars from injuries they might suffer in a car crash if they don't wear their seat belts.

H.B. Elkins, District 10 public information officer, served as master of ceremonies. He gave an overview of the number of lives that would be saved in Kentucky annually with a primary seat belt law, along with the number of injuries that would be reduced and the dollar amounts that would be saved.

Governor Ernie Fletcher was invited to attend but was unable to do so because of his hospitalization. The crowd heard from him through a public service announcement supporting the primary seat belt law. The



Buckle Up Bear and the Crash Test Dummies, Vince and Larry, made an appearance at the rally. Special thanks to Brandon Akers, Connie Price and Doug Watts for helping with their appearance! (Photo courtesy Eunice Fitzpatrick and Annette Napier from KRADD).

Continued on Page 6

Support sought for primary seat belt law

Continued from Page 5

crowd also saw photos of the truck driven by District 10 employee Shane Turner last year that was involved in an accident. Turner survived because he was wearing his seat belt, and recently received a "Saved By The Belt" award.

Buckle Up Bear (Brandon Akers) and Vince and Larry, the Crash Test Dummies (Connie Price and Doug Watts) also made an appearance at the rally. Signs and lapel pins were available.

District 10 extends thanks to Rod Maggard, director of the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center, for the use of their wonderful facility. Thanks as well to Donald "Happy" Mobelini for allowing the Hazard High students to attend, to Annette Napier and Eunice Fitzpatrick from Kentucky River Area Development District for their assistance, and to all those who attended or helped plan the event.

After weeks of maneuvering, the primary seat belt law was passed by both houses of the General Assem-



State Sen. Daniel Mongiardo, a doctor with Hazard ARH, made a point.

bly as the legislative session drew to a close. Governor Fletcher ceremonially signed the bill at the Life-savers Conference in Louisville. Governor Fletcher was the featured speaker at the statewide rally in the Capitol, which drew several District 10 legislators and supporters from all over the state.



Sharon Whitaker, director of radiology at Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital, made the trip from Estill County to relate firsthand experiences in the Irvine hospital's emergency room.



More photos from D10 seat belt rally



Above, law enforcement officials and representatives from KYTC and KRADD attended. Below, Hazard High School students. Left, Boyd Sigler from the Division of Driver Safety. Right, H.B. Elkins, District 10 PIO, was master of ceremonies.



Thanks to Annette Napier and Eunice Fitzpatrick from KRADD for taking photos.

Surplus road maps distributed to District 10 schools

In January, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet began distributing Kentucky official highway maps to elementary schools all across the Commonwealth. The maps will be used for geography and social studies classes as well for reference materials in school libraries.

So far, maps have been presented to schools in all 10 District 10 counties. H.B. Elkins, public information officer for the Department of Highways District 10 office in Jackson, made the trips to each school to make the presentations.

"We have an abundance of 2004 and 2005 maps in storage, and, we view this as a golden opportunity to contribute to the expansion of horizons for thousands of young Kentuckians," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "When a child becomes familiar with names and places and the various routes that connect them, that child's curiosity can grow into a thirst for more knowledge about Kentucky."

Gene Wilhoit, commissioner of the Department of Education, thanked the Transportation Cabinet for choosing to make these maps available to elementary school students. "Frankly, we are pleased that, when the Transportation Cabinet realized they had surplus highway maps at the end of the calendar year, their first thought was to use them to support education! Having readily accessible maps for so many children will lead them in the right direction to make many new discoveries in life."

When the determination was made that there was a



large supply of surplus maps, Secretary Nighbert contacted Education Cabinet officials, who, in turn, invited school principals and teachers to e-mail their requests for maps to the Transportation Cabinet.

"This is a shining example of how various agencies of state government can work together to improve student achievement," added Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia Fox. "In fact, this project is consistent with two very important themes in Governor Fletcher's overall vision for the Commonwealth, to advance education and to foster a cooperative spirit in state government. The Transportation Cabinet's maps initiative promotes the Governor's vision with *Unbridled Spirit!*"

Commissioner of Tourism Randy Fiveash sees this project as a potential long range boon to tourism in the state. "These maps will be great learning tools for the students," said Commis-

sioner Fiveash. "There will also be the added benefit of the maps becoming tourism tools, which will show the students and their families the numerous potential vacation opportunities available in Kentucky. We also want to commend Secretary Nighbert and the Transportation Cabinet for their decision to provide Kentucky maps to Kentucky schools."

Transportation Cabinet representatives from the Central Office in Frankfort and from district offices all around the state fanned out across Kentucky to begin delivery of the maps. To date, the Cabinet has received e-mail map requests from teachers, principals and superintendents from every area of the Commonwealth.



Hats off to the graduates!



Congratulations to these family members of District 10 employees who are recent graduates:

- Todd Duff, son of Debbie McIntosh, Breathitt County High School.
- Brandon Griffith, son of Hargus Griffith, Lee County High School.
- Whitney Eve Moore, niece of Shane Turner, Breathitt County High School.
- Ashley Thomas, sister-in-law of H.B. Elkins, Lee County High School.

If we missed your graduate, we apologize! Please let us know and we will include him or her in a future issue!

Photos of map distributions to D-10 schools



A.B. Combs Elementary, Perry County
Teacher Stella Rackey and Principal Brad Adams



Willard Elementary, Perry County
Principal Jody Campbell



Clay City Elementary, Powell County
Principal Susan Miller and Teacher Allison Tipton



Stanton Elementary, Powell County
Teacher Jocelyn Kimbrell



East Valley Elementary, Morgan County
Family Resource Center Director Carolyn Bishop



Wolfe County High, Wolfe County
Teachers Steve Oliver and Terry Spencer



Red River Valley Elementary, Wolfe County
Principal Brian Creech



Rogers Elementary, Wolfe County
Principal Kim Graham

“Having readily accessible maps for so many children will lead them in the right direction to make many new discoveries in life.”

—Education Commissioner Gene Willhoit



Owsley County Elementary, Owsley County
Principal Glenn Baker and Teacher Debra Burch



Southside Elementary, Lee County
Teacher Linda Begley and class



Owsley County High, Owsley County
Teacher Vanessa Johnson, Principal Teresa Barrett,



Prater-Borders Elementary and John T. Arnett Elementary, Magoffin County

“When a child becomes familiar with names and places and the various routes that connect them, that child’s curiosity can grow into a thirst for more knowledge about Kentucky.”

—KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert



Estill Springs Elementary, Estill County
Donald Aldridge, Principal



Menifee County Elementary, Menifee County
Jon Hall, Principal



Highland-Turner Elementary, Breathitt County
Alma Turner, Secretary



LBJ Elementary, Breathitt County
Linda Bush, Attendance Clerk and Patrick Wooton,
Assistant Principal

“We view this as a golden opportunity to contribute to the expansion of horizons for thousands of young Kentuckians.”

—KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert



Marie Roberts-Caney Elementary, Breathitt County
Teresa Turner, Secretary, and students Mary
Hughes, Vicky Combs and Nikki Baker



Rousseau Elementary, Breathitt County
Carl McIntosh, Principal, and Beth Griffith, Student

Personal Items

*Congratulations to Todd Duff, son of Debbie McIntosh. Todd celebrated his Senior Day for Breathitt County's baseball team in style, by throwing a no-hitter in a 10-0 win over Menifee County.

*Congratulations to Steve and Leigh Ann Gunnell on the birth of their son, Mason Wallace Gunnell, on May 12.

*Sympathy is extended to Aric and Jessica Skaggs on the loss of their son. Braydon Lyndon Skaggs was stillborn on April 30.

*Sympathy is also extended to Debbie Benton on the loss of her mother. Margie Turner Clemons died on April 30.

Calendar of Events

- June 14 — Flag Day
- June 18 — Father's Day
- June 21 — First day of summer
- July 4 — Independence Day (state offices closed)
- July 23 — Parents' Day

We want your news!

We want to make sure that all our District 10 employees know about events that are important in the lives of their fellow co-workers. Please send announcements of births, deaths, engagements, weddings, graduations and other milestone events of members of your family to hb.elkins@ky.gov and we will include these items in upcoming issues of *The Power of 10*. What better way to share your news than by publishing it in your employee newsletter?

A NEWSLETTER FOR KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET DISTRICT 10
EMPLOYEES

THE POWER OF 



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Department of Highways, District 10
473 Highway 15 South, P.O. Box 621
Jackson, KY 41339
Linda Wagner-Justice,
Chief District Engineer
H.B. Elkins, Public Information Officer

Phone: 606-666-8841
Fax: 606-666-7074
Email: hb.elkins@ky.gov

www.transportation.ky.gov/D10/



District 10 blood drives are successful



Sherry Wright recently received a plaque for her work in organizing District 10's blood drives.

Employees of the Department of Highways District 10, based in Jackson, always show their "Unbridled Spirit" when it comes to giving the gift of life and donating blood.

In partnership with the Central Kentucky Blood Center, District 10 sponsors several blood drives each year at the district office. These drives usually draw employees from facilities in each of the district's 10 counties -- Breathitt, Estill, Lee, Magoffin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell and Wolfe -- as well as district office personnel.

In 2005, District 10 employee donations totaled 3 percent more units of blood than during the previous year.

"Your involvement and the involvement of those around you have saved many lives over this past year," Russ Cassady, donor recruitment specialist for the Central Kentucky Blood Center, recently told District 10 employees. "2005 was a successful year for Central Kentucky Blood Center and a lot of that success rests solely on the shoulders of groups like yours, who volunteer time and the precious resource of blood to save others who you will likely never meet."

"The Commonwealth of Kentucky has always encouraged blood donation by its employees, and District 10 is pleased to help with this worthwhile effort," said Linda Wagner-Justice, chief district engineer. "Our employees have always been quick to volunteer for community efforts and this is just one more example of our workforce's civic-mindedness. We're thrilled that our blood donations last year increased over 2004, and we hope that we can experience another increase in 2006. We're honored to partner with the CKBC in this vital work."

"Sherry Wright in the Operations Branch in our district office works hard to coordinate our blood drives. We appreciate her efforts and we know that CKBC is grateful for them too," Wagner-Justice added.

For more information on blood donation, visit CKBC's Web site at <http://www.ckbc.org>.

Signs, signs, everywhere there's signs...



KYTC's initiative to remove illegal signs from state right of way was a large undertaking. This bounty of illegally placed signs was removed in Powell County. (Photo courtesy David Griffin, *The Clay City Times*).